TL 1530

Topic 347 Timorese worker dies mysteriously 1 response
tapol reg.easttimor 9:55 pm Mar 17, 1994

URGENT ACTION from TAPOL, the Indonesia Human Rights Campaign,
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The following information has just been received from a reliable source in Jakarta.

Mysterious death of East Timorese worker

On 29 January 1994, the body of Petrus Tomae, an East Timorese worker, 32 years of age, who was employed by Indocement Citeureup, Bogor, was discovered in the River Citeureup. There is evidence that the Petrus died after being tortured. According to an autopsy (No. P.02/040/I/1994) by a doctor on 3 February, the dead man was found to have memar on the brain, haemorrhage in the lower cavity of the brain, his skull was cracked and a bone in the nape of his neck was broken.

The Ikatan Keluarga Timor-Timur (IKTT, East Timorese Families' Association) at the cement factory sent a letter to the company and to the police asking for the circumstances of his death to be investigated. The Indonesian Legal Aid Foundation (YLBHI) has written to the chief of police about the case but has not yet received a response. The company failed to provide any death allowance as they normally do. Other East Timorese working at the factory feel threatened by the circumstances in which Petrus died.

Yet, on 24 February, as a result of the formal complaint that had been made by IKTT, the 33 East Timorese working at the factory were summoned by Lieut.General Supardjo, Personnel Director [this must be Lieut.General Supardjo Rustam, a former Minister of the Interior] who told them that they must withdraw their complaint within 24 hours and admit that they had made a mistake. They were also threatened with dismissal.

Petrus had worked for Indocement since 1991; the company is owned by Sudwikatmono [a step-brother of President Suharto] and Liem Sioe Liong [Indonesia's foremost business tycoon and a close associate of the President]. He was recruited by Yayasan Tiara, a company owned by Siti Hardiyanti [the President's oldest daughter] through the Manpower Office in Dili. Petrus was one of 34 East Timorese recruited at the time.

The day before he was found dead, he had invited two friends to his home, saying that he was expected someone to come. The dead man was last seen alive by his wife at 3.30am on 28 January when they were about to leave home to take his wife's sister to Bogor because she was ill. But as Petrus was locking the front door, he suddenly rushed from the house as if he was being chased by someone.

Action: Please write to the following, asking for an investigation into the death/murder of Petrus Tomae, in order to bring the person or persons to justice:

Mr Abdul Latief, Minister for Manpower,
Jln Jendral Gatot Subroto Kav. 51,
South Jakarta
Fax: +62 21 840 2746

Chief of Police, Major-General Banarusman,
Jl. Trunojoyo 13,
Kebayoran Baru, Jakarta Selatan,
Fax: +62-21 36 1471 (c/o Armed Forces)

The Indonesian ambassador in your country.

Topic 347 Timorese worker dies mysteriously Response 1 of 1
tapol reg.easttimor 7:45 am Mar 18, 1994

Correction:

Kindly delete the remark in square brackets after the name of Lieut-General Supardjo. We need to check further the identity of this person.

Topic 348 Army warns Timorese mission
tapol reg.easttimor 7:47 am Mar 18, 1994

Army warning to Timorese mission

Source: AFP and UPI
Date: 16 March 1994
Dateline: Jakarta
Abridged

[Background: In a follow-up to the 'reconciliation talks' in London several months ago, a group of 25 East Timorese led by Abilio Araujo has been gathering in Amsterdam in preparation for a visit to East Timor. Whether all 25 will in fact go is not clear as several have been urged by relatives in East Timor not to come. It is not clear whether Araujo himself will turn up in Dili as some members of his family are said to be very unhappy about the visit. Carmel, TAPOL]

Indonesian military authorities have warned they will arrest any visitors who engage in politics while visiting East Timor, press reports said here today.

"Welcome, see (East Timor) for yourself as long as you come with good intentions. I will arrest you if you come to make any political move here," said head of the Udayana Military Command, Major General Adang Ruchiatna.

Speaking in Dili on Monday, Ruchiatna said East Timor was open to foreign visitors but he did not want to see East Timorese who had fled abroad in the past 18 years to be among them.

Ruchiatna's warning was in response to questions about the planned visit to East Timor by a group of Portuguese nationals.

Topic 349 Aditjondro brushed off again
tapol reg.easttimor 7:50 am Mar 18, 1994

Aditjondro "knows nothing", says Jakarta

Source: AP
Date: 17 March 1994
Dateline: Jakarta
Abridged

INDONESIA DENIES ALLEGATION ON EAST TIMOR DEATH TOLL

The government on Thursday denied an Indonesian scholar's claim that the military killed 271 pro-independence demonstrators in East Timor in November 1991.

A statement by the Foreign Office said the scholar, George Aditjondro, has never been involved in research in East Timor.

"What has been written by Dr Aditjondro is solely his own opinion and is not based on facts," the statement said.

"It is surprising that Dr Aditjondro who has never been involved in research in East Timor has suddenly claimed to be an expert on this area," it said.

In papers reported by Australian newspapers last week, Aditjondro spoke of a 'culture of violence' in East Timor. He also accused Indonesia of economic exploitation in the territory.

"What has been the result of his research is totally valueless and tends to be misleading," the Foreign Office said.

Topic 350 **Text of Amnesty ad on East Timor**
antennae reg.easttimor 11:38 pm Mar 18, 1994

The following is the text of an advertisement placed by Amnesty International British Section in newspapers in the UK. The ad has run in The Guardian, The Observer and is due to run in The Independent, The Independent on Sunday, The Times (Supplements) and Private Eye. Response so far has been excellent. For more information, please contact Karen Sherlock at Amnesty British Section.

[CAPTION TO PHOTOGRAPH: This picture was taken at the height of a massacre in Dili, capital of East Timor, as Indonesian troops killed 250 unarmed people. The boy is dying. The woman on the right...]

HOW EMBARRASSING.

The scene is Dili, East Timor, a territory forcibly occupied by Indonesia since 1975. It is 12 November, 1991. The time is 8am.

A crowd of East Timorese, among them children as young as six, had gathered in a cemetery to mourn the killing of a friend and to call for their country's independence.

Without warning, Indonesian troops opened fire on the crowd. People began to run. As bullets struck, scores fell dying.

A foreign film crew and an English photographer were among the crowd. When the shooting started, the photographer dived into a small, open crypt, through which bullets were ripping.

At the instant of this picture, he is flattened against a wall, his body shielding a heap of children - older children lying on younger ones to protect them.

Five feet away, the boy in his friend's arms is dying. Another behind them lies dead.

The blurred shape in right foreground is a woman who has just run into the crypt. The dark marks on her face and clothes are blood. If you had been there, you would have seen that a chunk of her face was shot away.

If this picture were in colour, all you would notice is blood.

INDONESIA: THE CHILLING FACTS.

This savage massacre in East Timor is only a tiny part of the terror that has gripped Indonesia itself since 1965, when the military, led by General Suharto, siezed power.

Inside a year, between 500,000 and 1 million people had been murdered by, or with the compliance of, the military.

In Java in the mid-1980s, five thousand people were killed by government death squads. In these 'mysterious killings', mutilated corpses were left on the streets to rot. President Suharto described this as 'shock therapy'.

Within the last five years, 2,000 civilians have been killed in Aceh, at the northern tip of Sumatra.

Near the village of Alue Mira, Aceh, in July 1993, Amnesty reported a grave containing some two hundred bodies.

Asked about this discovery, Indonesia's Major General Pramono replied, 'I don't think it could have been two hundred bodies. It's hard to tell with arms and heads all mixed up.'

Few other nations are so casual about mass murder.

AMNESTY'S UNHEEDED WARNINGS.

Amnesty has been tracking the Indonesian Government for nearly thirty years.

We have found every form of human rights abuse - and on a staggering scale - imprisonment without trial, political murder, killing of petty criminals, execution of the old and sick, torture, rape, 'disappearance' and mass murder.

The regime holds on to power by a sophisticated ideological and military apparatus. The courts work alongside the military to suppress dissent.

Just owning the wrong book can get someone thrown in jail for many years.

Anyone suspected of harbouring unpatriotic thoughts - by which the regime means any criticism of its actions - is liable to imprisonment and torture, possibly worse.

In November 1992, Antony Ginting, a bus conductor in the town of Deli Tue, North Sumatra, was abducted by police who beat him, rubbed chilis in his eyes, burned him with cigarettes, urinated in his face, smashed his fingers with a hammer, stabbed his head with a screw driver and shot him 12 times in the legs. The reason? They suspected him of theft.

In Madura, East Java, four peasant farmers were killed because they dared to protest against a dam that would drown their fields.

Ordinary Indonesians are afraid and in this climate of fear, human rights abuse has become part of the system of government.

Over and over, year after year, Amnesty has warned the world's leaders. Again and again, they have turned a deaf ear.

MASS MURDER IN EAST TIMOR.

East Timor is the eastern half of the island of Timor, 400 miles north of Australia. It was invaded by Indonesia in 1975. Since then at least 200,000 East Timorese, one-third of the population, have been killed, or died of starvation.

Recently, at the National Film Theatre, John Pilger's film 'Death of a Nation' - about the fate of the Timorese people - was previewed before an invited audience.

Among them was a group of people from Amnesty International.

The film had been running less than five minutes when a series of brutal images erupted across the screen - the audience found itself looking at footage taken at the Santa Cruz cemetery as the soldiers opened fire.

As the auditorium filled with screams of wounded and dying people - sounds our photograph cannot convey - a man in the audience began to sob and curse.

MASSACRE? WHAT MASSACRE?

At Amnesty we know every frame of this awful footage by heart.

On the day of the massacre, our Urgent Action Network swung into action and thousands of individuals poured faxes, telegrams and letters of protest in to the Indonesian Government. Within 48 hours of the massacre Amnesty had flashed two detailed reports to governments around the world.

Western governments did nothing.

Emboldened by the lack of action, the Indonesians claimed that only 19 people had died. They dismissed Amnesty's reports as lies.

On screen, John Pilger was questioning Indonesia's Ambassador to the UN, Nugroho Wisnumurti.

> Pilger: The statement by Amnesty International described the situation in East Timor as one of arbitrary arrest, torture, disappearance, executions and massacre. Are they lying?
>
> Wisnumurti: Yes, I think the...
>
> Pilger: Amnesty is lying...really?

Wisnumurti's face filled the screen as he replied, 'Despite that statement, have you seen people being shot?'

The audience, which had just seen film of the cemetery massacre, gave vent to disbelieving laughter. The man at the back of the cinema screamed 'Liar! Liar!'

But if Indonesian politicians are clumsy with the truth - ours have got hypocrisy down to a fine art.

HYPOCRISY IN HIGH PLACES.

John Major made it a point of his diplomacy to argue that poor countries should spend more on meeting basic human needs - and less on arms.

But in 1991, he shook hands with Indonesia's Trade & Industry Minister, B.J. Habibie, to whom Britain has now agreed to sell 40 Hawk military jets.

Whitehall says the Hawks won't be used against civilians. But how on earth can they be sure?

Especially when the same B.J. Habibie whose hand John Major shook has clearly stated that, 'the planes will be not only be used to train pilots but also for ground attack'.

There are only a couple of places where the Indonesian military could conceivably use ground attack aircraft - in Aceh and East Timor.

For God's sake, what kind of morality is it where sleeping with an actress can get a minister hounded from office - but it's okay to sell lethal weapons without legal guarantees that they won't be used to kill innocent people?

THE CYNICISM OF REALPOLITIK.

When governments pretend not to notice suffering, to whom can peoples like those of Indonesia and East Timor turn for help?

The United Nations? Alas, the deeper you delve, the redder the faces.

The cynicism of realpolitik extends even to the UN Commission on Human Rights, of which Indonesia is a member.

When Amnesty attended the Commission in Geneva last month to urge action on Indonesia and East Timor, we met only embarrassment.

The governments to which we spoke repeated what they've been promising us for 30 years: they will pursue a policy of 'quiet diplomacy'.

They might as well go fishing.

The picture on this page is the result of 'quiet diplomacy'. No wonder governments are embarrassed.

'SHUT UP!'

In the cinema, as evasive politicians succeeded one another on screen, the man in the audience began interrupting virtually every sentence, screaming his frustration.

People began ssshhhing. 'Shut up', someone hissed, 'we're trying to watch a film.'

But the man in the cinema wasn't watching a film, he was watching his life. Afterwards, when John Pilger took questions, the man apologised. He was East Timorese and three of his brothers had been killed by the Indonesians.

At Amnesty we know how that man feels. Year after year we shout and scream - and people turn away.

Of the millions of people who see this photograph today, few will remember it tomorrow. Fewer still will think about what it means.

Tomorrow in thousands of homes, it will be used to light a fire, to polish shoes on, or thrown away.

If you'd been there and seen with your own eyes what happened in that cemetery, you'd have come home and started your own campaign for those people. No question.

What will you do this morning? Turn the page?

IF YOU READ ON, YOU MUST JOIN US.

In a moment, of course, we are going to invite you to join us and help us try to stop the terror in Indonesia and East Timor.

On past performance, you're quite likely to ignore us and turn the page.

Before you do, let us tell you the rest of the story of this photograph.

When the shooting stopped, soldiers came into the crypt and dragged out the photographer.

He later told Amnesty, 'All the way to the entrance of the cemetery I was confronted by soldiers brandishing knives and thrusting them towards my face. I was kicked and beaten and had guns put to my head while they screamed at me.'

He never saw what happened to the others.

But according to an East Timorese exile: 'After they stopped shooting, those who had survived, the ones who could have been saved because they were only wounded in the legs and arms, they were stabbed with bayonets, the ones still inside the cemetery were still breathing but lying on the ground, their heads were crushed with rocks until they died.'

Are you really going to turn the page?

If you knew how much good you could do just by joining us - you wouldn't hesitate. So if you've read this far and you're not already a member of Amnesty, we ask you again, please cut the coupon.

Don't do it tomorrow, do it today. Don't have a cup of coffee first. Do it now. If you can't find a pen, pick up the phone. But do it now.

Topic 351 Xanana Appeal
chucko reg.easttimor 9:50 pm Mar 19, 1994

From: "charles e. albertson" <chucko@fry.halcyon.com>
Reply-To: chucko@fry.halcyon.com (charles e. albertson)

According to a brief news item heard on Radio Australia this morning (19 March), Xanana Gusmao has announced he is filing a petition for a new trial with the Indonesian Supreme Court. He will be represented by the Indonesian Legal Aid Institute.

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Topic 352 lxlt brief embassies in lisbon
cdpm reg.easttimor 2:45 pm Mar 20, 1994

COMMISSION LXLT TO BRIEF EMBASSIES IN LISBON

Commission "Liberdade para Xanana, Liberdade para Timor", Commission LXLT in short, asked for audiences to the Embassies in Lisbon of Greece (currently heading the EU), the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The goal was to pass these Embassies the Commission's concern about the current situation in East Timor, to urge their countries to adopt a clear and positive standing on the matter during the running UN Human Rights Commission and to make practical suggestions regarding the improvement of the situation of the East Timorese political prisoners.

The audiences took place on the 3rd. and 4th. of March and their outcome was above our expectations. Facts in common for the three audiences were: a) in all the cases, Commission LXLT's counterpart was a high-ranking officer: the 1st. secretary (USA), the counsellor (UK) or even the ambassador (Greece); b) a relatively lengthy, sometimes detailed, discussion occurred (around one hour each); c) they proved that the Embassies staff is in general well-prepared and motivated to discuss the subject; d) as a result of the talks, in all the cases the Embassy representative informed that he would make a note to his Foreign Affairs Ministry on the content of it.

The degree of information on the matter varies from what can be described as a basic perception (Greece) to a in-deep, "technical", knowledge (UK, USA). Also the atmosphere of the discussion being in general open and friendly was a bit different for the UK, much more on the defensive.

What is probably the most surprising of all is that just two years ago, this Commission (or any other) would hardly have succeed on appointing these meetings. Just after the Santa Cruz massacre, the best some hundreds of East Timor supporters demonstrating in front of the American Embassy could get, was having a receptionist receiving a message.

Some reasons can be suggested for these changes, the most relevant ones being: the new foreign affairs policy of the Clinton Administration; strong criticism against arms trade in the Portuguese press, specially focusing the UK (for instance, during the last visit to Lisbon of Douglas Hurd, two weeks ago, 80% of the questions raised at the press conference concentrated on the Hawks deal); the growing awareness of the question by diplomatic circles and public opinion in general.